

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
U.S. Appl. No. 10/500,124 (Q81414)

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-18 and 20-24 are all the claims pending in the application.

In the Advisory Action, the Office states that for purposes of appeal, the proposed amendments will be entered.

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-18 and 20-42 remain rejected. The Office Action indicates that Applicants' arguments filed July 18, 2008, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Thus, the Office maintains the rejection of claims 1, 4-18, and 20-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Kodas et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,951,666). The Office Action asserts that Kodas et al discloses each feature of instant claims 1, 4-18 and 20-24. Alternatively, the features claimed would have allegedly been obvious insofar as Kodas et al allegedly discloses each of the claimed ingredients with the claimed proportions for a similar utility. The remainder of the Examiner's comments in support of the rejection are included on the continuation page of the Advisory Action. For purposes of brevity, they are not repeated here.

Applicants amend claim 1 and respectfully traverse the rejection.

Instant claim 1 is amended so as to limit the dispersant to only "hydroxypropyl cellulose" by deleting "polyvinyl pyrrolidone" and "polyvinyl alcohol". The Office Action asserts in the Advisory Action that "The court has held that structurally similar compounds are generally expected to have similar properties. Likewise, a composition containing similar compounds within the claimed properties would generally be expected to have similar properties (e.g. volume resistivity, fusion property, specific gravity, viscosity and the like)". Accordingly, the

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Office rejects the present claims by asserting that Kudas teaches a conductive composition comprising all the claimed ingredients (i.e., silver compound, reducing agent and dispersant), with the claimed properties, for the same utility. However, Kudas does not disclose “hydroxypropyl cellulose” as a dispersant.

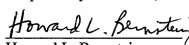
In the original specification (as described in Example 1 on page 15), “hydroxypropyl cellulose” is used as a dispersant. Further, as described from Example 1 to the end of Example 3 on page 18, FIGS. 1, 3, 4 and formulas (1) and (2) are obtained by using Example 1, which uses “hydroxypropyl cellulose” as a dispersant. Thus, the features of claim 1, which are distinct over Kudas, are obtained by using a dispersant which is not disclosed in Kudas. Accordingly, Kudas et al does not anticipate, nor would it have been obvious to have modified Kudas et al. in order to have arrived at the features of instant claim 1, from which all remaining claims variously depend.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


Howard L. Bernstein
Registration No. 25,665

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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